

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 SS-15 PM-03 INR-07 L-03 SP-02

PRS-01 /050 W

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R 061522Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9373

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 1404

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: X GDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, UK, AV

SUBJ: DOG ISLAND

REF: LONDON A-653

1. I HAVE READ WITH INTEREST AND SOME CONCERN REPAIR REPORTING CONVERSATION OF JUNE 24 BETWEEN STUART FRENCH OF DOD AND PATRICK DUFF OF UK FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE.

2. WHILE EMBASSY FULLY APPRECIATES NEED AND DESIRE OF U.S. NAVY FOR FIRING RANGE TO REPLACE CULEBRA AND DOES NOT WISH TO BE UNHELPFUL IN THIS MATTER, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES OF ESTABLISHING RANGE ON DOG ISLAND WILL BE UNFAVORABLE TO OVER-ALL U.S. INTERESTS IN CARIBBEAN. MOREOVER, IT IS QUITE CLEAR FROM SUBSTANCE OF FRENCH-DUFF EXCHANGE AND FROM EMBASSY LONDON COMMENT THAT HMG IS INTERESTED IN DOG ISLAND PROJECT PRECISELY BECAUSE OF CONTRIBUTION PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO MAKE TOWARD SOLUTION OF BRITISH POLITICAL PROBLEMS IN THE AREA. IN OTHER WORDS, U.S. IS BEING INVITED TO SHARE NOT ONLY COSTS OF DEVELOPING ANGUILLA AS AN INDEPENDENT OR AUTONOMOUS ENTITY BUT ALSO BLAME FOR ENCOURAGING ITS SEPARATION FROM ST. KITTS-NEVIS. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE FEEL IMPELLED TO ASK AGAIN WHETHER ADVANTAGES OF DOG ISLAND SITE TO U.S. NAVY ARE NOT OUTWEIGHED BY DISADVANTAGES TO USG

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POSITION VIS-A-VIS GOSK AND OTHER CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS.

3. IF DECISION IS NEVERTHELESS MADE TO PROCEED WITH PROJECT,
AND HMG GRANTS PERMISSION FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY IN SITU,
I FEEL STRONGLY THAT EMBASSY OFFICER SHOULD BE PART OF STUDY
TEAM. DOD MAY RESIST SUCH A PROPOSAL ON GROUNDS THAT STUDY
IS A TECHNICAL ONE, BUT IT IS APPARENT TO ME THAT TECHNICAL
ASPECTS OF PROJECT CANNOT BE KEPT SEPARATE FROM
POLITICAL ASPECTS, AND, SINCE WE WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH
CONSEQUENCES OF ANY ACTION TAKEN, WE NEED TO BE KEPT FULLY
INFORMED.
BRITTON

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